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LEITFADEN DER PHYSIOLOGISCHEN PSYCHOLOGIE IN FÜNFZEHN VORLESUNGEN. By  
*Prof. Dr. Th. Ziehen.* Jena: Gustav Fischer. 1893.

The second edition of Professor Ziehen's *Leitfaden* contains some additions and emendations, and, we are glad to say, an index; but, upon the whole, the text has remained unaltered. We have reviewed this book in a former issue of *The Monist*, Vol. II, No. 3, page 461. Ziehen is an antagonist of Wundt's, but it is to be regretted that his criticisms are based upon a misconception of Wundt's theory of apperception. κρς.

LOGIK. Eine Untersuchung der Principien der Erkenntniss und der Methoden wissenschaftlicher Forschung. By *Wilhelm Wundt.* Erster Band. Erkenntnisslehre. Zweite umgearbeitete Auflage. Stuttgart: Ferdinand Enke. 1893.

The first edition of this work of the well-known Leipsic professor appeared in 1883 in two volumes, entitled, respectively, *Erkenntnisslehre* and *Methodenlehre*. Of the present edition only this, the first volume, has as yet appeared. The volume is a large one, containing six hundred and fifty-one pages; its great size being due to the fact that Professor Wundt has a very comprehensive conception of logic—one coextensive, almost, with the entire field of general philosophy. We shall review this work exhaustively in a later number and will only mention here that Professor Wundt's point of view is not that of the traditional school, but, in contradistinction to the Aristotelian methods, professes to supply rules for the conduct of real research and means for the acquisition of new truth. μκρκ.

LA VUE PLASTIQUE FONCTION DE L'ÉCORCE CÉRÉBRALE. Par *Georges Hirth.* Traduit de l'allemand par *Lucien Arréat.* Paris: Felix Alcan. 1893.

A review of the predecessor of this work, *La physiologie de l'art*, appeared in Volume III, No. 1, page 143, of *The Monist*, to which we must refer the reader for the foundations of the theory of the present work. Its translator is M. Lucien Arréat, the accomplished correspondent of *The Monist*, who has performed his task with correctness and felicity.

It is a well-known fact that our judgment of the extension, and especially of the depth, of bodies is an interpretation of planar figures. We do not see things stereometrically; that is, we do not see solid objects as solid; but we see "plastically"; that is, we see things by means of fictitious or shapen images of them.

This problem of plastic vision has occupied investigators from the very beginning of science, and countless theories have been set up to explain it. The most recent ones are, that which regards the connexion of impressions with exterior objects as the effect of our innate concept of causality (Schopenhauer); that of projection (the mathematico-optical theory); that by which plastic vision is explained as due to the collateral confirmation of the other senses; that which, like the former, claims that the corporeality of things is the product of constructive imagina-

tion ; and, finally, that which defines sensory experience in this respect as a motor memory, making our faculty of measuring with the eyes the result of innumerable movements of the eye, which movements have gradually endowed the organism with such a delicate sense of muscular innervation, that even without executing these movements we obtain, by simple presentiment, images more or less distinct of depth, and so forth.

As opposed to all these various hypotheses, the theory of the author is, that plastic vision is a function of the cerebral cortex. And, in contrast also to the former methods, which were chiefly mathematical and metaphysical, his is physiological.

In a sense, his results are a modification of the nativistic theory. In the *original* formation of the faculty of plastic vision, indeed, the effect of experience is not denied, but this influence, it is contended, is one which must be sought rather in the primitive experience of the race than in the individual.

Plastic luminous sensations, he claims, cannot by any possibility be effected without an innate nervous organisation adapted to such production. Plastic vision, in one of its aspects, is a cerebral necessity ; it is not effected directly by the real figures of objects, or by their actual position in space, or by their binocular projection and perspective on the retina, but by the independent action of central luminous excitations, which owe their origin to certain properties of the surfaces of bodies, and which constitute, thus, a central constraint. The result of this is, (as is also the fact,) that we are subject to *necessary* plastic representations, even when experience tells us that we have not before us bodies possessed of actual properties of relief, as in the stereoscope, and so forth. Our organ is thus *constrained* to acquiesce in many illusions concerning the corporeality of nature.

Plastic vision, in fine, is not a linear-perspective vision endowed with stereometric projections ; it does not measure angles or parallaxes ; but simply has *sensations* more or less strong for the qualities of remoteness and for the relative extent of lights projected from the two retinas into the visual spheres and there fused.

Lights, which are both correspondent by their position on the two retinas and homologous with respect to energy of specific color, fuse in the elements of perception of the visual spheres, not by reason of a common fixation or the intuitive activities of the understanding, but in virtue of a dynamical constraint. Binocular fixation, clear vision, the convergence of the eyes, and so forth, are simply concomitant phenomena and more or less indispensable means of this "confluence"; they are not its original cause.

The central constraint which is due to this "confluence" of homologous lights explains many of the mooted points of vision. All phenomena accompanied by adaptation of the visual organ, claims the author, are explainable from our simple feelings of the qualities of remoteness of light, which alone is sufficient to set in motion the mechanism of adaptation.

Plastic vision, in its origin, before the influence of collateral memory-images

and their associations, is the simple evolutionary product of luminous excitations, which contain *implicite* the elements for the judgment of distance ; as a developed faculty, it is a central innervation, the active expression of our feeling for the qualities of remoteness of light. This is the core of the theory. μκρκ.

UEBER HYPNOTISCHE EXPERIMENTE. By *Professor R. von Krafft-Ebing*. Stuttgart : Ferdinand Enke. 1893.

NATURGESCHICHTE DES VERBRECHERS. By *H. Kurella*. Stuttgart : Ferdinand Enke. 1893.

DAS GEFÜHL. EINE PSYCHOLOGISCHE UNTERSUCHUNG. By *Prof. Theobald Ziegler*. Stuttgart : Göschen. 1893.

The putative discovery of Krafft-Ebing that persons exist who by hypnotism can be put back into early periods of their life, so that, for example, a person thirty years old may be suddenly made to feel and to conduct himself as he did in his seventh year, is one fraught with great consequences, and has been much discussed of late in the press of Germany. As was to be expected, it met with much critical opposition, and among its foremost assailants, of scientific reputation, were Professors Ganster and Benedikt, the Vienna colleagues of Professor Krafft-Ebing. Benedikt went so far as to pronounce the whole matter a stupid humbug, and declared that Krafft-Ebing had been made the victim of his own credulity and been basely imposed upon by a designing hysterical person. It was to be expected that the celebrated Vienna psychiatrist, who thus saw his reputation endangered, would soon put forth an answer to these attacks, and the present tract is the result. It bears the motto, "Unlimited doubt as much the offspring of mental impotence as unlimited credulity," and contains in addition to its accurate presentation of the subject under discussion a sharp criticism of the strictures of his opponents, and especially of the animadversions of Benedikt. In keen psychological analysis it surpasses other books of its class, and may be cordially recommended to the readers of *The Monist*—a recommendation which the high reputation of its author almost makes superfluous.

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The second of the books listed at the head of this review is by H. Kurella, the author of the pamphlet on Lombroso, mentioned at page 640 of the last *Monist*. The present work of Kurella is quite extensive and supplies all the data necessary for a general study of the modern doctrines of criminology. It is an elaboration of all the previous literature of this subject, together with the author's original researches. After an introduction, Kurella treats of the abnormal anatomical features of the criminal, the biology and biological factors of the criminal, the psychology of the criminal, and finally of theories and applications.

In the chapter on the psychology of the criminal Kurella first portrays for us symptomatically the features of the criminal mind as this latter has been observed